

## **The Fifth Commandment**

*What Does It Mean To Honor  
Your Parents?*

Exodus 20:12

Danny Jones  
March 4, 2007

## **CNN.com**

**Today's college students  
are more narcissistic  
and self-centered than  
their predecessors,  
according to a**

**comprehensive new study  
by five psychologists who  
worry that the trend could  
be harmful to personal  
relationships and  
American society.**

**"We need to stop endlessly  
repeating 'You're special'  
and having children repeat  
that back," said the study's  
lead author, Professor  
Jean Twenge of San Diego  
State University. "Kids are  
self-centered enough  
already."**

**"We're encouraged a lot to be individuals and go out there and do what you want, and nobody should stand in your way," Hanaday Kader said.**

**"Permissiveness seems to be a component," W. Keith Campbell said.**

**"A potential antidote would be more authoritative parenting. Less indulgence might be called for."**

**The idols – the “other gods” of our day:**

**2 Timothy 3:1-7**

**Romans 1:28-32**

**What does it mean to *Honor your father and your mother?***

**Honor is something you DO!**

**Love**

**Obedience**

**Respect**

**Trust**

**Serving**

**Admiration**

**Loyalty**

**Faithfulness**

**Submission**

**Joy**

# ***What Does It Mean To Honor Your Parents?***

The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment

March 4, 2007

Metro Life Church

Exodus 20:12 ESV *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you."*

The first commandment, *You shall have no other gods before me*, is the foundation for all the others: idolatry, profaning His Name, keeping the Sabbath, honoring parents, forbidding murder, adultery, theft, bearing false witness, and covetousness.

We see here in the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment that the sin and reproach of dishonoring and disobeying parents stands in direct opposition to the very nature and character of our great and awesome God. So when we disrespect, disdain, mock, slander, oppose, reject, disobey or neglect the guidance and counsel of our parents, we are rebelling against God Almighty!

The idols – the "other gods" of our day:

2 Timothy 3:1-7

Romans 1:28-32

This is our culture: TV shows, sitcoms, movies, lyrics in our favorite songs, literature – *YOUR FRIENDS?*

What does it mean to *Honor your father and your mother*? And why is so frowned upon in our day and age? One author said it this way: "Honor is more than just behavior change. Honor comes from the heart. It affects the way people think, the way they act, and the way they treat others around them." *Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining and Bad Attitudes in You and Your Kids!*

Definition: *Websters 1828* Verb transitive – expressing an action carried from the subject to the object:

HONOR [Latin: honoro.]

1. To revere; to respect; to treat with deference and submission. Honor thy father and thy mother. Ex.20.
2. To reverence (a feeling of profound awe and respect and often love); to manifest the highest veneration for (profound respect - courteous yielding to the opinion, wishes, or judgment of another); to manifest the highest veneration for in words and actions

What does honoring your parents include?

Perhaps it would serve us best to develop our understanding of what honor is against the backdrop of what dishonor means. Lets make the contrast with what it ISN'T so we can see more clearly what it IS:

DISHONOR Verb transitive

1. To disgrace; to bring reproach (to express disapproval of, criticism of) or to bring shame on; to stain the character of; to lessen reputation.
2. To treat with indignity.
3. To violate the chastity of; to debauch (as in defrauding a young lady or a young man with flirtatious or seductive behavior)

Francis Turretin (pastor and theologian in the 1600's – He had a profound influence on the Puritans):

Many things are contained in it –

1. love – “For if your neighbor is to be loved, who is a greater neighbor to us than father and mother whose flesh we are? Again if kindnesses bestowed upon us ought to conciliate our love to the bestower, from whom have we received more or greater benefits than from our parents?”
2. Reverence – “... which is due to them because of preeminence” - their authority
3. Obligatory and voluntary obedience
4. Gratitude

To fully understand honor, we must consider “what it looks like”:  
Love, obedience, respect, trust, a heart to serve, admiration, loyalty, faithfulness, submission, and joy.

1. Love – parents are made in the image of God, loved by God, Christ came to die for their sins, they are His sovereign choice for you!

Even if the person is not lovable and behaves himself unworthy of either love or esteem, he must nevertheless be loved in that relationship as having been placed over us. It is the ordinance of God to love them--it pleases God, and it is also very beneficial. *Wilhelmus à Brakel*

2. To obeying your parents, is to obey the Lord
3. Respect
4. Trust
5. A desire to serve
6. Admiration

7. Loyalty: meaning, I will not tolerate them being despised or belittled by anyone, and I won't do it myself! Its being patient with their weaknesses – just like you would desire them to be with you!

8. Faithfulness: in little things, details – trustworthiness

9. Submission: Yup! There's that ugly word!

Ladies: if you can't submit to your parents, how can you ever expect to submit to your husband?

Young men: if you can't submit, how do you expect to ever do well in business OR be the kind of man your wife will be able to willingly and joyfully submit to?

10. Joy: the freedom to enjoy the will of God for your life!

*Application Questions:*

1. How do your feelings, actions toward your parents line up with this biblical perspective? How similar or dissimilar is your relationship to the good will of God for your life?

2. Where have you detected bitterness or unforgiveness in how you think about, feel about your parents?

3. Where do you find yourself experiencing the benefits and fruits of loving and respecting your parents? How does it affect your life? How does it affect them? (If you don't know, ask them!)

4. How can you help your friends in living out these truths? What do you need from them and they from you to change the things the Holy Spirit is convicting you of?

5. Parents: How does all this apply to your relationship with your parents? How can the blessings or failures in your relationship with your own parents help guide your child(ren) through these challenging years of young adulthood?